

## Health Care Employment Trends in Maine

The health care industry is the largest in Maine with an average of 75,047 jobs in 2004, accounting for 13 percent of wage and salary employment. The industry paid a total of nearly \$2.7 billion in wages, which was 14 percent of total wages paid in Maine. Nationally, health care accounted for nine percent of both employment and total wages.

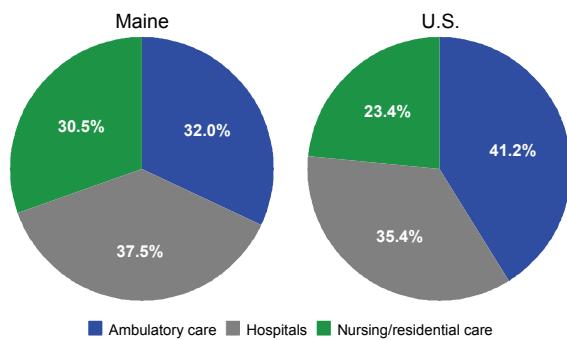
The structure of Maine health care employment is somewhat different from the nation, with a larger share of jobs in nursing and residential care facilities, and a smaller share in ambulatory health care services (graph 1). The primary reasons for the high share of jobs in nursing and residential care in Maine are the higher-than-average share of elderly population (7.2 percent vs. 6.1 percent age 75 and over) and the high share of jobs in residential mental health facilities. Compared to the nation, Maine has nearly three times as many jobs in residential mental health facilities relative to its population.

Employment in health care grew at nearly three times the all-industries average between 1994 and 2004 (36 vs. 13 percent). The fastest growth was among ambulatory health care providers and the slowest growth was in hospitals (graph 2).

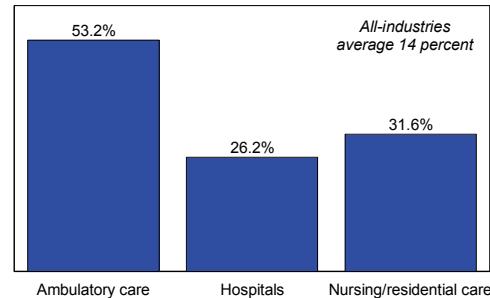
The structure of ambulatory health care services in Maine is similar to the nation, with nearly 68 percent of the 24,027 jobs in offices of physicians, home health care services, and offices of dentists in 2004 (graph 3). Between 1994 and 2004 the fastest ambulatory care job growth was among the smaller providers, particularly medical and diagnostic labs, up 141 percent; outpatient care centers, up 156 percent; and offices of other health care providers, up 102 percent (graph 4). Other health care providers include offices of chiropractors, optometrists, mental health practitioners, specialty therapists, and podiatrists.

The structure of Maine nursing and residential care employment differed somewhat from the nation,

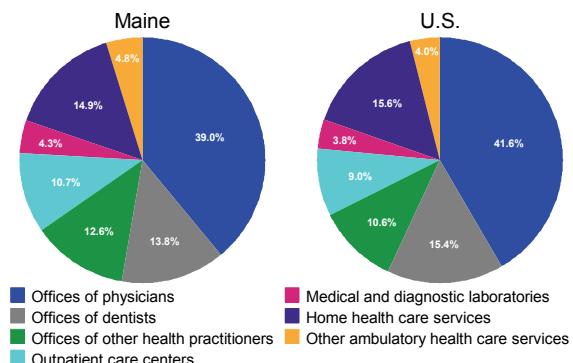
A higher share of Maine health care employment was in nursing and residential care and a lower share in ambulatory care in 2004



Job growth was well above average in each of the three primary health care industries between 1994 and 2004



The structure of ambulatory health care services in Maine was similar to the nation in 2004

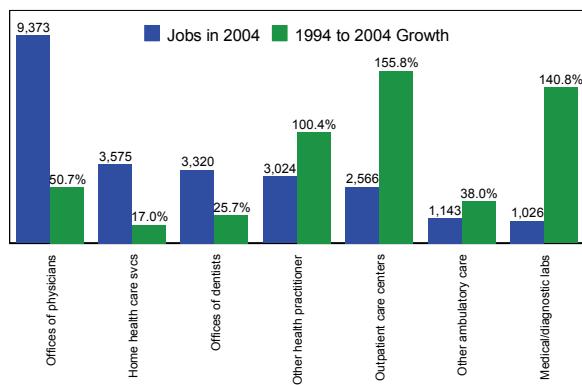


with a higher share in residential mental health care and a lower share in nursing care compared to the nation (graph 5), though Maine had a higher number of nursing care jobs relative to the size of its population. Between 1994 and 2004, the fastest job growth was among residential mental health, up 101 percent; community care facilities for the elderly, up 106 percent; and other residential care, up 165 percent. The number of jobs in nursing care facilities declined four percent, partly due to the Medicare program shifting to lower cost types of care for the elderly (graph 6).

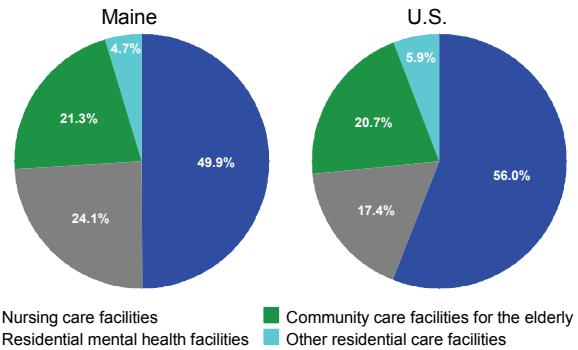
The average wage in the health care industry was \$35,690 in 2004, twelve percent higher than the all-industries average. That was a major contributor to lower-than-average overall health care job turnover. In the health care sector, turnover was generally highest in the lowest paying industries (graph 7).

The job outlook for health care is bright. Between 2002 and 2012 the number of health care jobs is expected to rise 27 percent, compared to an average growth rate of 10 percent for all industries. Among occupations, 10 of the 15 with the fastest projected rate of job growth are health care related.

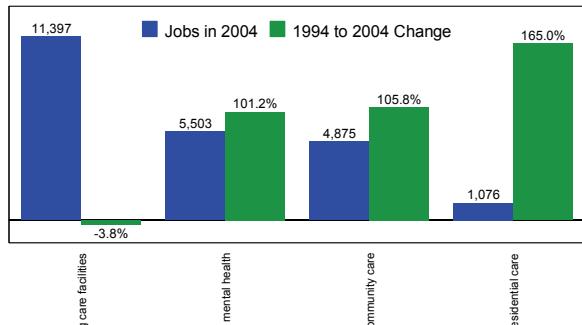
The fastest ambulatory job growth between 1994 and 2004 was generally in the smallest industries



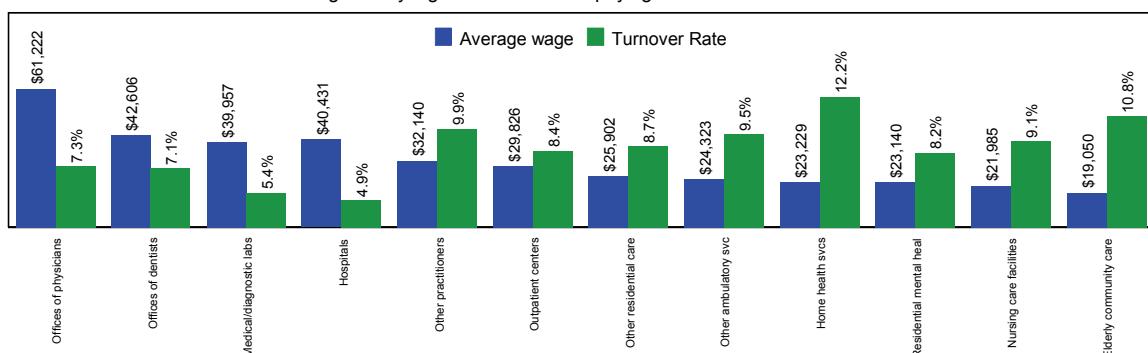
A smaller share of Maine's nursing and residential care jobs were in nursing care and a higher share in residential mental health care in 2004



The number of jobs in nursing care facilities declined between 1994 and 2004, while the smaller residential and community care industries grew rapidly



Job turnover was generally highest in the lowest paying health care industries in Maine in 2004



Turnover figures are for the 12 month period ending in June 2004.